

# ALASKA SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT PROGRAM INFORMATION

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. Does the new Subsistence Halibut Program affect commercial and sport fishing for halibut?**

*No. There are no changes in the rules and regulations governing commercial and sport fishing for halibut. Commercial fishermen must be fishing under the IFQ or the CDQ program, and sport fishermen need to have a State of Alaska sport fish license (if required).*

**2. May I subsistence fish for halibut from a vessel registered as a charter boat?**

*It depends. A charter boat may not be used for sport fish charters **and** subsistence fishing at the same time. However, if it is not being used as a charter boat for sport fishing, it may be used for subsistence fishing operations.*

**3. May I subsistence fish for halibut during a commercial fishing trip?**

*It depends. You may NOT have both subsistence halibut and commercial halibut on board the same vessel at the same time. Nevertheless, the subsistence regulations do not prohibit having subsistence caught fish on a vessel with other (non-halibut) commercially-caught fish. Note, however, that the commercial fish must have been harvested in compliance with the pertinent state and/or federal regulations and, in some instances, the commercial fishing regulations may preclude commercial and subsistence fishing on the same trip or with the same gear.*

**4. Must those fishing in Area 4D and 4E CDQ possess a SHARC in order to retain under 32" halibut for subsistence purposes?**

*No. As long as the person who is fishing follows the rules governing when under 32" halibut may be retained for subsistence purposes during CDQ fishing, s/he does not also need to obtain a SHARC.*

**5. May more than one SHARC holder be fishing from a single fishing boat?**

*Yes. There is no limit to the number of SHARC holders who may fish from a single vessel.*

**6. May subsistence halibut be shared with someone who is not eligible to obtain a SHARC?**

*Yes. There is no limitation on the sharing of halibut with others.*

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**7. If subsistence halibut may not be sold, what is the \$400 annual limitation for?**

*It is illegal to sell subsistence-caught halibut or to otherwise allow it to enter into commerce (through a fish buying operation, into a grocery store, through the internet, etc.). The purpose of the \$400 annual limit is to allow someone receiving subsistence-caught halibut from a SHARC holder to help pay for some of the costs of harvesting. For example, if a SHARC holder provides halibut to several families who are not able to fish for themselves, the expense of catching the halibut may be defrayed by those receiving the halibut, up to \$400 per year from all other persons for each SHARC holder.*

**8. May a person who is not eligible to obtain a SHARC fish for someone who has a SHARC but can not go fishing?**

*No. There is no proxy fishing for subsistence halibut. Anyone subsistence halibut fishing must be eligible and obtain a SHARC in his or her own name. But note that the SHARC holder may distribute the halibut to anyone.*

**9. May a person who qualifies as a member of an urban Alaska Native Tribe fish for halibut in non-subsistence areas?**

*No. There is no provision for subsistence halibut fishing by anyone in non-subsistence areas. If a resident of an urban area qualifies because he or she is a member of an Alaska Native Tribe with customary and traditional use of halibut, that fisher must still travel outside of the 4 non-subsistence areas, even if that means traveling several miles from home.*

**10. If I qualify for a SHARC as a member of a rural-based Alaska Native Tribe but have personally moved to an urban area, may I subsistence fish for halibut anywhere subsistence halibut fishing is open?**

*No. A person who lives in an urban area or out of state and qualifies because he or she is a member of a rural-based Alaska Native Tribe may only subsistence fish for halibut in the IPHC area adjacent to the location of the Tribe's headquarters. For example, a member of an Alaska Native Tribe from Toksook Bay on the Bering Sea coast who has moved to Anchorage or Seattle must travel back to IPHC Area 4E (eastern Bering Sea) and is not eligible to subsistence fish for halibut in any other IPHC Area. All other Tribal and rural subsistence users who hold a SHARC may participate in any waters off Alaska that are open to subsistence halibut fishing. Note that the area restriction does not apply to a member of an urban-based Alaska Native Tribe.*

**11. Is there a size limit for subsistence halibut?**

*No.*

**12. What are non-subsistence waters?**

*These are areas closed to subsistence fishing for halibut by anyone. Location maps and boundary descriptions are in regulation. But, in general, these are waters around Ketchikan, Juneau, Valdez, and Anchorage.*

**13. If I am a member of an eligible Alaska Native Tribe, may I apply on my own behalf or do I have to have the Tribe apply for me?**

*You may either apply on your own behalf by filling out your own application or the Tribe may apply for you. If the Tribe applies for you, a SHARC will be sent directly to your address as the Tribe has indicated on the application. Similarly, if you fill out your own application, the SHARC will be sent to the address that you wrote on your application.*